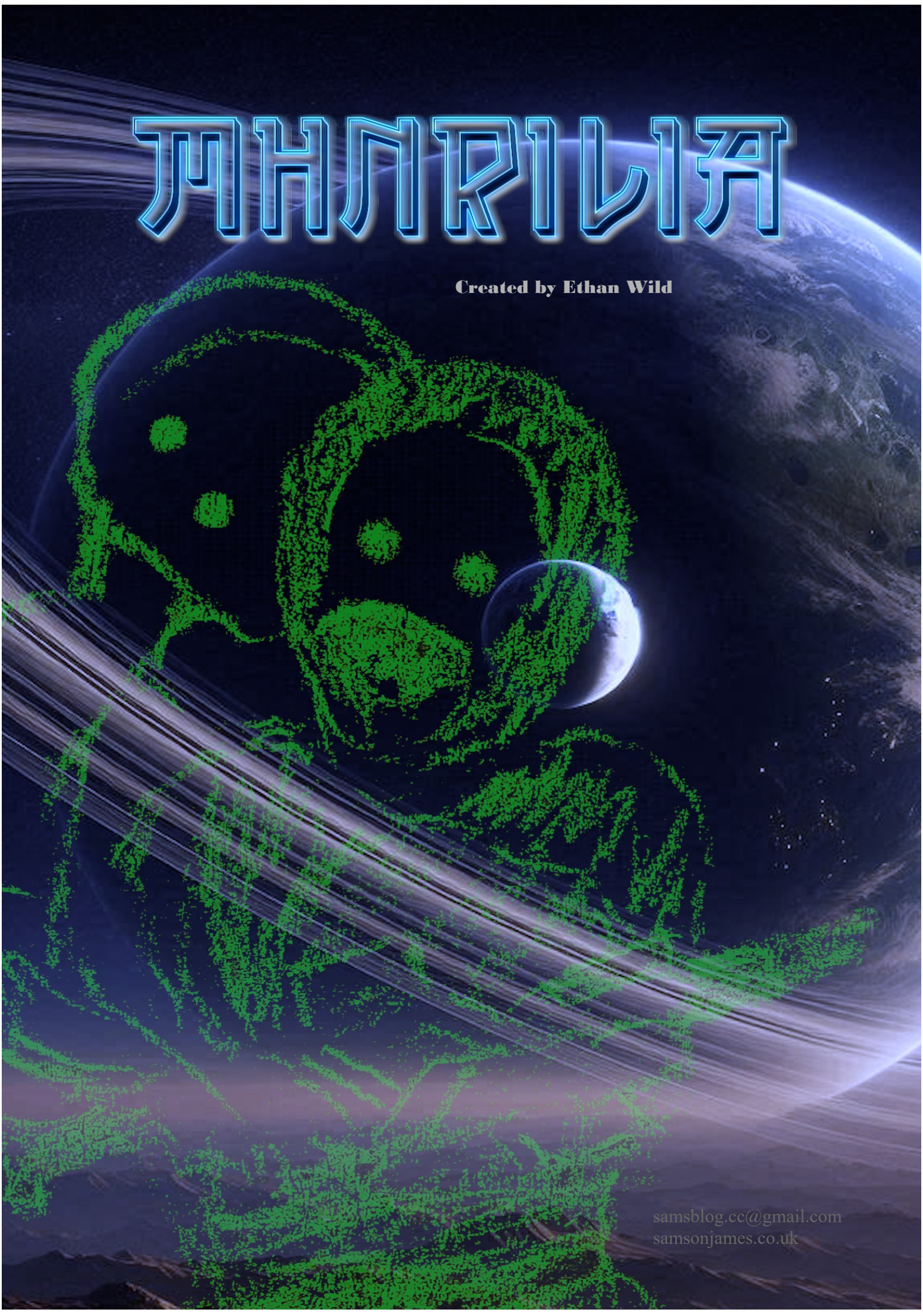
MHRIVIA

Created by Ethan Wild



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What's Mhrnilia about?

Experiencing the war first-hand, this soldier sees through society's lies.
He defects to the aliens becoming, as the news aptly calls him,
'The Cat of The West'.

Mhnrilia is about the importance of true family, life, the bigger picture and compassion, arguing good and evil, the grey line of morally bankrupt causes for the greater good. Is war justified if your experience and social conditioning blinds you to the obvious? A lite yet brutal case study on war's phycological toll on those involved and caught between, and its effects on two radically differing fictional societies through all out war. After brutally massacring your home and your race to save themselves from the fate you now face, would you still save Earth?

This is **Earth**. We prospered under The Galactic Federation of Planets, but politicians messed up the last and crucial step: social integration. Human revolt and a swing to fascism ensued. After a religion fuelled civil war, the States made a coup against their government becoming a military-run conglomerate under the country's army: Atropos' Corps. The Federation pulled out of Earth's airspace and… being reliant on their technology and resources, began the nuclear third world war for resources, driving home global destabilisation.

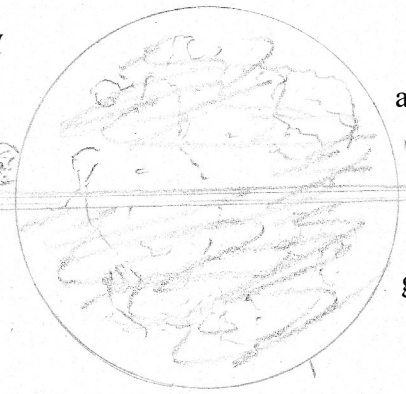
'Create a culture where what you want to achieve is acceptable, and suddenly you have society on your side'.

'I may be stupid, but I am optimistically stupid!'

Zy Beates

This is **Mhnrilia** and its two moons through its neighbouring asteroid field. Found in the Laodara System deep in the Perseus Constellation.

Once home to a vast, prestigious and cosy interplanetary cross-race empire, meticulously disassembled and engulfed by The Galactic Federation's efforts for galactic control.



Home to marili, a humble warrior race and scientific leader in biomechanics and robotics.

A highly advanced civilisation undergone a great societal and governmental shift too clever for its own good, failing to see through the Galactic Federation's watering down and unarming of their fangs and to realise Earth's likelihood to invade for its resources the moment they left the Federation to finalise a secret trade deal with us.

'Every society has problems and disagreements. Our more unified beliefs make differences less of a problem'.

'The best soldiers don't kill'.

Naasqu Na'as

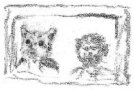
Zy and Naasqu come as a pair, one never seen without the other. What began as a mutual agreement born out of sheer desperation from the Supreme Council for Zy to share all he knows of Atropos' Corps and Earth in exchange for mostly unlimited freedom, has bloomed into an intimate friendship that only technologically irreversible death can break. They need each other… no, they're co-dependent as the only friends each other have left who're alive. Zy comes to respect Naasqu as the father figure he never had and Zy, the closest Naasqu will ever come to know as a son, being the only heir and carer left of his family's legacy. The world tests their morals time and time again as they have to choose who lives and who dies and what they have to sacrifice under the enormous weight of their planet's impending genocide as they fall deeper year on year into apocalyptic ruin and galactic obsolescence. And Zy firmly establishes himself under the given title of 'The Cat of The West', informally known to strangers as 'Gatto' thanks to Atropos' News Network's propaganda morale wheel, turned insult as is Mexico's use of 'Gato' as a slur after destroying a mexican crewed ship rather too enthusiastically.

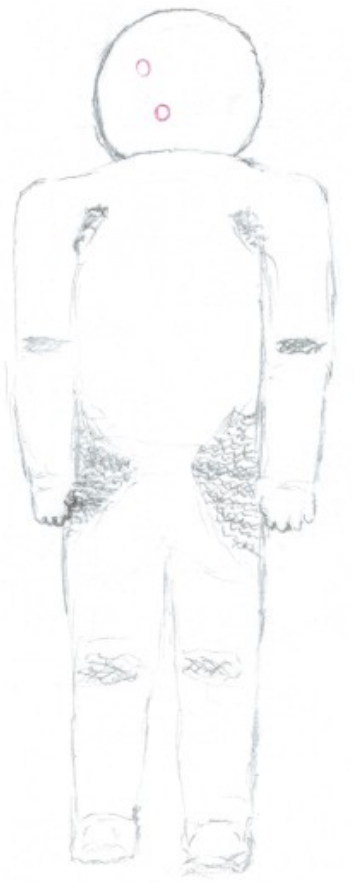
Eventually, the Supreme Council came to honour Zy the title and to become the emissary to Earth and foreign powers, proving himself worthy of the title far in the future when he successfully crusades into Earth's home territory with resounding blows to Atropos' Corps's navel power when he destroys their navel headquarters between Luna and Mars. But that's a story for another day.

Zy Beates is a mechanical engineer by education. A shy, timid, yet socially confident 20-year-old with an acute eye for detail, that is when he isn't being chewed out for disagreeing with society's status quo. An atheist, and pacifist amongst Christian nationalists. Son of an english widower die-hard military-focused Atropos' Corps board member who fled for the States sixteen years ago from mass invasions through mainland Europe. The sole reason Zy joined Atropos' Corps two years ago, refusing to spare him from mandatory conscription when he came of age due to 'parental endorsement'. Now he's finished training and recently posted to Fortress: Ellie (Fort 'E'), on Mhnrilia. Zy hasn't returned his calls since. He isn't the type for daddy issues, but fear of abandonment and general loneliness is definitely something he suffers from. That, and his great distrust and disregard of authority and hierarchy that hasn't earnt his respect, that he can't ask 'why', that does respect his independence. He is empathetic yet nihilistic at the same time.

When he defected and broke Naasqu Na'as out of Fort Ellie, Naasqu commissioned a piano for him after seeing his interest in their instruments, but he never had a clear enough mind to play anything on it 'properly' until his moment of piece during his return to the house after Mhnrilia's defeat.

When he isn't playing music and annoying Atropos', he's sparring with swords and mhnrilian martial arts. But, at the end of the day, there's nothing like relaxing under the old tree out to the wild meadow beyond Naasqu's house.





Like most marili, or at least, those who had a sokyn before the war and those fortunate to stumble across ones that fit and lack authentication, he wears a ‘sokyn’. A heavy-duty armoured mechanical suit utilising electro and biomechanics to make them little more than a second skin while increasing the wearer’s already impressive strength to the extent they can cripple themselves if not careful. Originally designed as a safety tool for construction and excavation, are worn now to traverse Atropos’ Corps lingering chemical warfare and for battlefield use. Naasqu’s is the 32nd and last sokyn prototype designed and constructed with the latest of Mhnrilia’s technology for long-range combat assault and reconnaissance. Sporting a hermetically sealed chassis with thicker plating made from undiluted nakrite alloy with as many survival and combat-oriented systems as would fit. A light and day difference from the standard sokyn’y that are merely dumb exoskeletons with cheap protective plating and an integrated torch. Despite this, combat sokyn can still be penetrated by specially designed ballistic rounds due to plating thickness, which is later addressed. Mhnrilia’s technical unfamiliarity and sudden lack of testing and production facilities has caused all kinds of unknowable errors, engineers traversing completely new territory by hand.

Naasqu Na’as is one Mhnrilia’s supreme councillors, commander and eventually de-facto emperor with Zy as the only other Supreme Council member left. Born in Na’as squ in the Western Territory to a large family of engineers and scientists on their small agricultural estate. Mid social-political shift from war happy warrior race to an empathetic people content with their own affairs. As you can imagine, he struggles with outdated societal pressures and conflicting values from his youth. Something Zy helps him with. Since coming to power, he reluctantly resides in Second-Capital’s Citadel and carrying the prestigious title of ‘Lord Supreme Commander of the Battalion & Peacemaker to Foreign Powers’ until the end.

Those who’ve met him say he’s calm, collected and quiet. But Zy would call him talkative and his ever-childlike fascination with craft and self-education a marvel to behold. And his sharp mind and wit beating him to kooky jokes ‘more irritating than his height’. Like Zy, he respects others' time regardless of purpose and intent. He is open-minded with few prejudices, unlike Zy, an aspect of him Naasqu manages to both tame and nurture with time.

Likened to a fish cat//Maine Coon cross by humans. But really there is no similarity at all, being one of the most intelligent beings in the galaxy and also one of the most flexible and weirdly jointed, able to fully engage quadrupedalism as their ancestors did. Adapted from their climate and being low on the food chain, hence their physical features and spurring innovation. Camping can be scary and very dangerous!

Episodes

Episodes One – The Marilian

Ki. Zy's friend, David McComb accompanies him to the laundry room, gym and breakfast. He receives a phone call from his dad but ignores it. Now stationed on the northern wall, Zy finally sees proper action when Naasqu leads an attack on Fort Ellie, having been stationed for months as a part of Platoon: 15. Being surrounded by conceited pro-human, politicised and actively practised racist propaganda that's got to him, he is excited and wants to know whether the stories of marili and soldiering are true.

Shō. He experiences first-hand the true horror of war. The marili's strength; his acting captain's plans going wrong when marili set off an E.M.P. and destroy their Bastion, swiftly offing three quarters of themselves. Witnessing the deaths, marili combat and he works to save a fellow soldier and they begin to connect, dying moments later. Tripping onto a body pile and faced with marili's humanity, he has an emotional meltdown, scaring attacking marili as he fends them off with one of their swords. Watching this go down, Naasqu calls the marili off his tail out of intrigue, but, as they say, curiosity killed the cat. Naasqu doesn't throw enough caution to the wind and Zy mortally shoots him leading to his capture. The remainder of Platoon: 15 meet up with another platoon and ride back to Ellie in their Bastion. On the way, he thinks over how Atropos' Corps views its soldiers, being one of the thousands mobilised with progressively evident insufficient equipment with the strategy of: overwhelm, whittle down, win, count bodies later and begins questioning his beliefs.

Ten. Another captain, Harvey, invites Zy to his office where they discuss his performance and reveal that their scientists have a live marili, Naasqu, arranging for Zy to see him in a bid to make Zy see things the Atropos' way. On his way back to the dorm for sleep, Zy listens to his dad's voicemail. David is in the dorm waiting, and Zy confides in him, who encourages and helps make up his mind before surprising a forever goodbye as he's been reposted to breach Second Capital and leaves. Zy meets Naasqu the next morning and sees to his wounds, realising that they're his bullets. Zy patches him up and sets about convincing the scientist to allow them to escape willingly in an unlikely yet obvious way.

Ketsu. Naasqu returns with Zy to the Citadel in Second-Capital. During the flight, Naasqu challenges Zy's hatred for humans and we're mislead as to David's fate at the capital's out-most wall. Naasqu excitedly introduces him to bits and pieces of their culture and history. A council meeting is called, Zy proves to be a great asset when he is invited to address the Supreme Council and unknowingly argues for blowing up a major manufacturing facility to put a plug in Atropos' advancements and to open up more options, while educating the council on Atropos', cementing his worth as an adviser. And the tides turn against Atropos' Corps.

Proof of concept mini episode

Episode Two – We Bleed The Stars Too

Ki. Zy spars with other marili in an army camp. Naasqu catches him off-guard by dropping by and they catch up and get down to business. Believing Zy is ready for action, Naasqu invites him on a hunting mission for old mining sokyn'y models to harvest for otherwise unobtainable parts, taking his fully repaired personal ship. Naasqu excitedly explains the metalwork tapestry in his ship as family history. Zy questions Naasqu on his friendliness while seeming to avoid true intimacy and making proper connections with people.

Shō. They fly over to Naasqu's estate, where there is an underground robotics lab. They land on a far up hill from Na'as city and begin their search. Zy tries making conversation but Naasqu isn't feeling talkative. Zy marvels at a nakrite statue of Naasqu in the square they're in. They find the sokyn, or more, *it finds* them, activated and roaming.

Ten. A hidden Atropos' Corps sniper tries to assassinate Zy, Naasqu panics, summons his ship and they scarper through the roof. Naasqu dislocates his claws under his combined weight as he climbs out, they get in the ship and Naasqu entrusts Zy to pilot it as he visits the medical room. An Atropos Corps cruiser jumps in and begins firing on them from orbit. Zy flies up to it through the cannon barrage and missiles, parking in front of the cruiser in its weapon deadzone and promptly destroys the ship in one shot with too much enjoyment. Naasqu has been thinking about what Zy said about opening up, and sets the autopilot to take them to his family home.

Ketsu. Zy asks Naasqu whether he's alright, having his claws dislocated, seeing his squ in the state it is and then having it shot up. Naasqu passes it off and Zy doubles down, calling him out on it. They land outside of his house and they take in the view of the wild meadow in silence. Naasqu begins to explain what life was like during his childhood and of the great social and political shift, and how it makes being emotionally present awkward and hard work. Zy accepts this in silence, and shares life up to being conscripted, his family dynamic, his relationship with his dad and what happened to Britain with recounts of funny childhood memories. Naasqu rambles youthfully over similar of his own.

THE WAR CONTINUES...